4:Fleure S-5 (no date)1936 EDl Rumania EDl

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231 the main flock being taken direct to the sheds on the foothills where they are fed on the hay gathered during the summer, whereas the remainder are grazed on the maize stubble until about Christmas. By then the weather becomes rather severe, and although sheep are better able than cows to withstand the rigours of a continental winter they are all kept in sheds during the early months of the year.

SURPLUS ANIMALS are disposed of at the autumn fairs at Tulgheş or Topliţa where they are bought up by dealers for conveyance to Italy or Czechoslovakia.

III. OTHER OCCUPATIONS

TEXTILES.

291
286 THE OUTSTANDING FEATURE of the Carpathian villages is the remarkably high standard of peasant craftsmanship. The degree of artistic expression revealed in their clothing is particularly striking, and although best seen on festive occasions it is scarcely less noticeable in their ordinary working garb. Wool, flax and hemp are the traditional fibres used, but imported cotton yarn is beginning to displace linen for some of the lighter summer garments. Most of the dyestuffs are obtained from local plants, for example, red
[286] from the leaves of the wild crab apple, yellow from the osier, black from the alder or birch and fawn from the walnut, but imported dyes are beginning to be employed. The mordant used is salt, but colours other than black fix themselves in wool without salt treatment.

462 SPINNING with a distaff is the normal occupation of the women in their leisure time during the summer, very little knitting being done at all. The other processes of combing, weaving and dyeing are also undertaken by the women, as is the embroidering of dresses and household linen, but the embroidering of the sheepskin waistcoats which are worn by both sexes is done by one or two men who specialise in this craft (see Plate XV).

LEATHER.

295 ALTHOUGH still made in the village, the old type of laced shoe with its characteristically pointed toe is being displaced

by imported boots and shoes, whilst socks and stockings bought at the local fairs are beginning to be preferred to the traditional method of bandaging the feet (see Appendix V).

WOOD.

THE most characteristic of the other local occupations are concerned with wood. Each peasant is allowed a certain amount of timber annually, the cutting of which is arranged by the Forestry Co-operative Society, but for every tree felled a new one has to be planted. Among the men of the village the making of wooden spoons, jugs and plates, often elaborately carved, is a favourite pursuit, though it is being threatened by cheap imported metal goods, so that in this, as in other ways, a rapid transition from medieval to modern conditions seems likely to occur in the near future.

THE GREEK CATHOLIC PRIEST.

ALTHOUGH primarily concerned with the spiritual welfare of his flock, the Greek Catholic (Uniate) priest in Corbu, as elsewhere in Roumania, is intimately bound up with the economic life of the community. Following the rule of the Eastern and Uniate Churches for their secular clergy with a cure of souls, the priest is married and depends to a considerable extent upon his land for his maintenance. He is often trusted with public and private business on behalf of the commune and its members. To him the peasants may bring their maize to be ground, their sunflower seeds to be crushed, their timber to be sawn and their cloth to be scoured. The water of the Bistricioara that runs past the priest's house is harnessed to provide power at Corbu for these operations, and from the services he thus renders to the villagers the priest gets part of his income.

IV. THE FUTURE

IT IS CLEAR from the foregoing account that Corbu is a mountain community that is rapidly approaching a crisis in its history. The old economic self-sufficiency is being undermined by the insidious influence of the journeyman, and the cheapness of the new wares that he is introducing will tend to increase the amount of leisure that the peasant already enjoys by releasing labour that he has hitherto expended on

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5. THINGS SEEN AT BORSEC FAIR, AUGUST 20TH

[286] **1. MATERIAL BY THE YARD.**

Cotton: Prints, calicoes, zephyrs, ginghams, men's shirtings.
Wool: Coloured serges, rough grey and brown woollen material (very thick) for men's and women's winter clothing.
Artificial Silk: In plain colours, Crêpe de Chine in plain colours, a very few printed silks.
Lace: Coarse white lace edgings (from Nottingham).

[291] **2. CLOTHING.**

Men's: Trousers, coats, waistcoats, cloth caps, embroidered lambskin waistcoats, braces.
Women's: Knitted and crocheted wool caps and berets, patent leather belts. Printed cotton and artificial silk pieces for head coverings. Ribbons.
Children's: Babies' knitted woollen garments. Modern-style dresses in artificial silk with machine-made embroidery. Socks and stockings of cotton and wool hand-knitted in Roumania. Artificial silk stockings manufactured from yarn imported from Switzerland and France.

[295] **3. BOOTS AND SHOES FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.**

Field boots and heavy nailed boots for men.
Manufactured boots and shoes for women and children.
Ready-made peasant shoes of leather.
Ready-made peasant shoes of leather with rubber attached to sole.
Ready-made peasant shoes made from old motor tyres.
Shoes of plaited felt of all sizes for women and children.
Shoes of knitted coarse wool with straps.
Pieces of leather of correct size for making the peasant shoes and leather thongs for lacing them.
Leather and mohair laces for using with the manufactured boots and shoes.

415 **4. POTTERY.**

Large brown glazed earthenware pots only. No other pottery of any kind was seen in the fair.

[295] **5. BASKETS, ETC.**

Hand-made of rushes gathered by the peasants who make them. Some colour introduced into the larger baskets; strong, neat weaving. Also a few big hats as worn in the fields by the Hungarian peasant women.

244 **6. GREENGROCERY.**

Turnips, potatoes, yellow beans, cabbages, gherkins, carrots, onions, tomatoes, ardei, lemons, apples, pears, Indian corn, water melons, cantaloupes.

CHAPTER VII

237 [439] The imported hides are in all probability largely heavy hides needed for sole leather. Those designated as "other hides and skins" are not important in tonnage, and exports are almost certainly all sheep and pig. The exports of leather are not very important, as they consist almost entirely of leather waste.

Total supplies of leather, available from internal slaughterings of cattle, calves, horses and buffaloes, together with net imports, would be about 12,000 tons, of which 10/11,000 tons are derived from local hides and skins.

Part of the sheepskins were dewoolled and turned into leather, the wool being sold separately but a considerable number of skins was used as fleece-lined jackets by the peasants. The total quantity of leather from the locally slaughtered sheep would, however, not exceed 750/1,000 tons.

Unlike Western countries, the pigs in Rumania are flayed, and the skins tanned, so that the pigskin industry is certainly of material value, although not of major importance, compared with Rumania's total leather production.

2. Manufactures

● 295 Rumania's leather trade made rapid strides in pre-war years and, as the bulk of the leather was made into footwear, an important increase in this production was noticeable. Although no official statistics are available, it is estimated that Rumania produced 4/5,000,000 pairs of leather shoes in 1936 and, in addition, considerable quantities of peasants' footwear were manufactured in country districts.

The industry at that time consisted of about 20 machine shoe factories, six of which were owned and controlled by tanneries, mainly centred in Cluj, Timişoara, Bucarest and Oradea. In addition, numerous small shops existed throughout the country in which shoes were made by hand. With the loss of Northern Transylvania the machine-shoe centres of Cluj and Oradea went to Hungary.

3. Tanning Materials

282 [439] Rumania has in the past relied on other countries for practically all her tanning materials and extracts. She used to import about 8,000 tons of different extracts, about 50 per cent. of which were re-exported from the U.K., probably quebracho and wattle extract. Yugoslavia supplied her with about 2,000 tons of extract, presumably oak and chestnut.

(ii.) War-time Developments

1. General

Though Rumania has suffered during the war from a leather shortage, partly on account of reduced internal production, but more especially because of the increased requirements for the Armed Forces, this shortage has not been so severe as in most European countries.

It has been reported that the leather production in 1940 was 9,200 tons, but that the supply of raw hides fell from 19,000 tons pre-war to 11,000 tons in 1941. This is a severe drop, even assuming that the 19,000 tons included imported hides. A substantial decline in the available supplies of leather has, however, certainly taken place owing to the curtailment of imports, to clandestine slaughterings, and to exports of live cattle to the Axis.

An indication of the extent of supplies allocated for Army needs was contained in an official announcement that 68 per cent. of all untanned

282 cattle hides collected in September, October and November, 1941, were for this purpose. The remaining 32 per cent., plus the horsehides, pigskins and goatskins, could be used for civilian purposes. The result was that very soon insufficient sole leather was available for civilians, and repairs to footwear became difficult.

282 656 At present 80 per cent. of the cattle hides weighing over 16 kilos (35 lb.), and 20 per cent. of the hides weighing less than 16 kilos, are reserved for the Army. This leaves the civilians very short of sole leather, normally manufactured from heavy hides.

At the end of 1941, the Ministry of Supply ordered the registration of all leather stocks, and thereafter leather could not be sold without a permit. The entire purchasing and control of raw hides and skins and also the distribution of leather was placed in the hands of the "ORAP" (*Oficiul Român de Aprovizionare și Distribuire a Produselor de Pielărie*).

In the autumn of 1941 private dealings in sheep- and lambskins were forbidden, the Army Supply Minister having sole right of disposal. Owing to the comparatively important domestic output such a measure should not have been necessary, but was due to the Rumanian, and probably German, demands for warm clothing on the Russian front. Evidence received in 1942 shows that 80 per cent. of the skins are now reserved for the Army.

In July, 1942, leather transmission-belting, etc., was brought under control and made subject to certain restrictions.

295 434 Civilian rationing of footwear was introduced early in 1942 and new shoes could be sold only against permits issued to persons declaring possession of only one other pair of serviceable shoes. Repair cards were also issued. Requisition cards for new shoes are limited to one a year, and repair cards to one every four months. Children under 14 years of age can obtain two requisition cards yearly for new footwear.

The issue of permits does not, however, guarantee footwear supplies, and only about 50 per cent. of repair or purchase demands appear to be met.

The above regulations have been slightly modified from time to time, but remain intrinsically the same. The production of footwear of substitute materials, such as wooden soles, soles of artificial leather, leather waste, buna, etc., has gradually increased.

295 435 Despite the various government regulations the footwear Black Market flourished, and while the average pre-war price for a pair of men's shoes was 800 lei, in October, 1941, the official prices were fixed at about 1,500 lei for a standard pair of men's shoes and about 1,200 lei for a standard pair of women's shoes. In March, 1942, however, the Black Market price for men's shoes was 7/8,000 lei a pair, and this has now gradually risen to 10/12,000 lei. Complete soleing and heeling of men's footwear costs 1,250 lei officially, and women's 1,000 lei. The official price of soleing leather is 530 lei per kilo, whereas the Black Market price is 34,000 lei.

2. Tanning Materials

282 439 Before the war Rumania never made use of her own barks for tanning, as it was more economical to import extracts from overseas. During the war she has made attempts to employ her oak, chestnut, spruce and pine barks for tanning materials, but